

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 059673

12

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

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DRAFTED BY AF/ N: AMBASSADOR ROCKWELL: AG

3/30/73 EXT. 20498

APPROVED BY AF/ N: RHPELLETREAU

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R 310047 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059673

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MO

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON SPANISH SAHARA

ON MARCH 30 IN WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR ROCKWELL ASKED MOROCCAN FONMIN BENHIMA WHAT HAD BECOME OF THE CONFERENCE BETWEEN MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA ABOUT SPANISH SAHARA WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE PLACE IN NOUAKCHOTT THE LAST WEEK IN MARCH. BENHIMA REPLIED THAT 24 HOURS AFTER HAVING RECEIVED THE INVITATION TO ATTEND SUCH A CONFERENCE, HE HAD DECLINED ON BEHALF OF THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT ON GROUNDS THAT MOROCCO WAS THE PRINCIPAL INTERESTED PARTY AND THAT IF SUCH A CONFERENCE WAS TO TAKE PLACE, THE VENUE SHOULD BE MOROCCO AND NO PLACE ELSE. SINCE THEN HE HAD HEARD NO FURTHER WORD FROM THE OTHER TWO PARTIES ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD MAURITANIAN REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVING RABAT MARCH 31 CARRYING MESSAGE TO KING FROM OULD DADDAH. BENHIMA SAID HE SUSPECTED ALGERIANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN BEHIND IDEA OF CONFERENCE. RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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